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Useful expressions for speaking b2 pdf

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Here's an updated list of expressions, linking words, and discourse markers to help with individual presentations and interactions: **FCE Speaking Part 2 Discourse Markers** 1. **Comparing living in different places**: Candidate A: *Look at these photographs*; Candidate B: *Personally, I'd prefer the quiet place*. Example expressions: - **Cityscape** (noun) - a more interesting word to replace 'city'. - **Commute** (verb) - to travel the same route several times a day. 2. **Filling time**: Candidate A: *Can you tell me why people choose to live in these places?*; Candidate B: *Because they lead an active lifestyle.* Example expressions: - Use fillers like "um" or "ah" for extra time to think. - Say "in contrast" to highlight differences. 3. **Presenting ideas**: FCE Speaking Part 2 cards with sample answers and useful phrases can be printed or saved in PDF format. 4. **Relating to the topic**: Candidate B: *I'd enjoy all things natural*; Candidate A: *That's a good point about living in different places.* Example expressions: - Use transition words like "however", "in addition", "on the other hand". - Say *in this case*, *if I were you*, or *for example*. Remember, practicing these expressions will help you sound more natural during presentations and interactions. Study somewhere else for a while and then come back home. To live in a certain place means that's where you reside. If you choose one thing over another, it means you go with that option. In FCE Speaking Part 2, the examiner often asks which preference is better among various choices. Take a leisurely walk or stroll to enjoy yourself. Being interested in something is called being into it. When you miss out on something valuable, it's like not getting it at all. Candidate B: The right picture has a girl doing gymnastics near a river, while the left one shows a lady playing tennis. Both are involved in sports activities but one happens outdoors and the other indoors. Tennis also needs special equipment like a racket, but the other exercise doesn't need anything at all. I think both people look happy because exercising energizes you, making you feel pleasantly exhausted afterwards. It's also good for your brain, letting you relax and let your mind wander. Candidate A: Although I'm not very good at tennis, I would choose it over the other activity - I'm terrible with body balance! Tennis is a nice mix of physical exercise and thinking since you can't just chase the ball. You have to plan ahead and calculate your moves. I like that part of tennis a lot. In the middle of something means you're doing it right now, which is useful for describing pictures. It seems to be taking place suggests there's uncertainty or speculation about what's happening in the picture. Pictured is another way to describe what's happening in an image. You might have to choose between two options but still prefer one over the other. Planning ahead means making decisions well in advance rather than acting spontaneously. Candidate A: Look at these two pictures, they show people doing different jobs. I'd like you to compare them and say what difficulties the people might face when doing their work. The two pictures showcase diverse destinations for holidays. While the left image depicts a warm and serene setting, the right one appears cold and even hazardous. Notwithstanding these differences, both settings seem inviting in their own ways. People seeking a holiday destination may opt for beachside huts if they come from a colder region, desiring a warmer climate with an abundance of local fruits and vegetables. In contrast, the second image might appeal to more energetic and youthful individuals who are passionate about sports and physical activity. households can enjoy sunbathing and swimming whereas some kids might find skiing too young for them. Additionally, low temperatures at ski resorts may not suit everyone's taste. To make an educated guess (adv) - using this expression helps express uncertainty when unsure about something in the scene. People might prefer such activities if they're looking forward to trying new things. Those who aren't from a particular background or culture might have different preferences. Some people are favoured by certain lifestyles due to their past experiences. Those, however, can be used as an alternative to 'people' when referring to specific groups without directly mentioning it. In this context, "member of the household" refers to individuals belonging to the same family. It could refer to immediate or extended family members. To someone's liking means something is appealing or suitable for them. People in meetings seem relaxed and engrossed in discussions when they're face-to-face, but might feel disconnected and appreciate flexibility with video conferencing. The latter allows for easier arrangement and avoids complications, making it a more efficient choice. **Candidate A's Response (Rewritten with "ADD SPELLING ERRORS" - SE, 40% probability)** In both picturs, we see peoples on ther way somwhere. It coud be ther job or the place where they study. However, ther are diffrences thats easy to see at first glans. In the left photo, peoples have almost no personel space becuz its very crowded, so they hav to stand reel close to each other. On the rite picture, on the contray, most cars are privet, and drivers as well as ther passengers must be feeling more confortable and safe. Speaking of the reazons for ther choice, I asume very few peoples actually hav the luxury of choice when it comes to moving arond the city. I think the vast majorety of train pasengers in the first picture wud gladly commute by car if they coud afford it. However, sum of them mite choose public transportation to save the envirnment and reduc ther carbon footprint. **Candidate B's Response (Rewritten with "WRITE AS A NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKER" - NNES, 30% probability)** Me, I ushally go by bike when I am in the city, but when snow come, I prefer take taxi or ask friend to give me ride. I no like bus too much, becuz it take long time and always many peoples inside. I can walk also, if not too far, but is not my first choice. **Candidate B's New Task Response (Rewritten with "INCREASE BURSTINESS" - IB, 30% probability)** In both pictures, people are fully immersed in the cinematic experience. One setting appears to be a cinema theatre, its grandeur evident even from the half-empty seats in the front rows, while the other is an intimate living room, possibly offering a cozier atmosphere. The benefits of watching movies in these ways? Well, for the theatre, I'd say it's about the immersive big-screen experience, surrounded by fellow movie enthusiasts, creating a shared emotional journey. In contrast, the living room setup offers unparalleled comfort and flexibility - pause the movie whenever you want, grab a snack, or simply enjoy with loved ones in your own private space. It's pretty clear that you can just stay home and avoid paying for movie tickets. Watching movies from there is way more comfortable, and you can easily grab your favorite snack and put on a good show. However, movie theaters have some perks like better picture and sound quality, so you really feel the explosions in action movies. Each situation has its own advantages. If it's a mainstream movie, watching with friends is probably more fun since sharing an experience makes it more enjoyable. On the other hand, if it's a less popular genre like a documentary or something niche, watching alone might be better because not everyone will find it entertaining. When talking about things, you sometimes use expressions that show you're not sure about them, like "appears to be" or "seems to be." These phrases are useful for showing uncertainty. You can also use structures that focus on good points or aspects of something, like "have their advantages." In the speaking part of a test, you're not strictly bound to one register, so feel free to mix formal and informal structure. If you're talking about things targeted at or meant for the majority of people, you might say they are mainstream. Sharing an experience means going through an event together. We've got a big family with lots of brothers and cousins, which means I usually get a bunch of hand-me-downs - things they no longer wear or use, so I score some free stuff! It's actually pretty cool; it makes them happy, and I'm getting new clothes without spending a dime. That's a win-win situation for everyone! I've got one more thing to figure out - how can we express uncertainty or speculate? Going through something means searching for something among other things, right? And setting is like a situation or environment. Probably means almost certainly or very likely. Break the bank means spending too much money on something. Hand-me-downs are free stuff you get from older siblings because they no longer use it. Here's what I've got: pictures of people doing their thing. The girl in one picture seems to like being alone; she's in a quiet library surrounded by bookstalls. The group in the other picture looks like they're having a blast camping somewhere. Now, let's talk about the pros and cons of spending free time this way. I think being on your own has its perks - you don't rely on others, and you don't have to do something you might not enjoy. But sometimes it can get lonely. On the other hand, camping with friends is amazing; there's that fresh air, good company, and a nice change from your routine. I'm having trouble thinking of any downsides! What about you, Candidate A? Do you prefer spending free time alone or with others? Candidate A: Hey, I'm more of a loner. I don't need people around me all the time to feel comfortable. Whether it's reading, walking in the park, or traveling, I'm happy when I'm on my own. I don't mind hanging out with friends sometimes, but I don't want to spend too much time with others. Solitude means being alone, and type refers to something like a person's nature. I believe that... well, let me try this again - being alone can be pretty cool! If you're in your element, like being at a place or doing something that's meant for you, then it feels enjoyable and you feel like you belong. This can be seen when people are shopping for food. Looking at the two pictures of people buying food, one in a supermarket and the other from a street vendor, we can see some differences. The supermarket has a wider variety of goods, but the fresh produce from the street vendor is likely to be more natural. The family in the supermarket seems happy together, taking everyone's opinion into account. They look really joyful. On the other hand, the people buying food from the street vendor are glad for the opportunity to purchase fresh produce and seem to know each other well. This type of shopping is quite common in smaller towns and villages with outdoor markets selling fresh, natural food. In bigger cities, however, most people shop in supermarkets. Moving on to another topic, let's consider young people riding bicycles. Looking at the two pictures, we see a little girl being taught how to ride by her father and a boy confidently performing a stunt jump on his BMX bicycle. Both of them seem to be enjoying their experience but for different reasons. The girl might find it challenging because she has to steer the bike, balance, and pay attention to her surroundings all at once as a beginner cyclist. In contrast, the boy's challenge is landing safely without breaking anything after performing a stunt jump. Candidate A is cycling in areas where it's not popular, such as places with harsh winters and short summers. He thinks cycling would be more fun if the climate were warmer. The conversation is showing a use of advanced tenses, like present continuous passive, to describe the situation. Candidate A is looking at pictures of people working and wants them to compare the photos and explain why they chose that work. In one picture, a man is cleaning windows from a high-rise building, which seems scary. In another image, an old man and his daughter are tending to crops, which seems more peaceful. The person in the first photo might clean windows for money or because he enjoys it. The people in the second photo might take care of their crops out of necessity or because they enjoy it. Candidate B doesn't think she would be satisfied with cleaning windows from a high place and prefers the picture of a vegetable garden. The conversation is using different structures to show contrast between two things, such as "on the contrary" at the beginning of the second sentence. they might be at what they do ok The left picture shows professional cooks in a restaurant kitchen making elaborate dishes. The right picture is of an apartment with one person cooking a simple meal. You shouldn't assume the people are experienced because they look young and it's possible they're trainees. They could have different amounts of experience but you don't know. who does cooking in your family My wife cooks thankfully I'm not good at it anything more complex than frying eggs or boiling sausage is too hard for me I will try to get better elaborate spacious under his belt hopeless shortcoming the pictures show animals in different environments compare them and say how comfortable the animals might be The left picture has a cheetah trapped in a cage probably in a zoo the right image has zebras grazing on a pasture somewhere in savannah the principal difference is that one shows animal in its natural habitat while other has an animal held against will it's hard to speculate whether caged animal is hugely discomforted by conditions maybe it has spacious cage and food with caretakers doing best to ensure good condition but zebras could be struggling to find food because many african species are suffering deforestation loss of habitat which environment animals live longer I believe animals in zoos have more chance living longer they are not threatened poachers natural phenomena predators Trapped situations can still have a significant impact, despite advances in technology and infrastructure. When we're stuck somewhere without an escape route, it's often a figurative representation of a difficult situation with no clear way out. Animals thrive in their natural habitats, which provide the perfect balance of climate and environment for them to live comfortably. Conversely, being confined against one's will can be stressful, especially when compared to living freely. Speculating about certain topics can be challenging due to the lack of concrete evidence or data. In contrast, using transitional words like "with" helps connect ideas and create a smoother flow in sentences. The contrast between different modes of transportation is evident in these photographs. While both show people using public transport, planes are often associated with longer journeys, whereas trains are preferred for shorter trips. In the first picture, passengers appear less comfortable due to the crowded conditions and waiting process. However, this perception may change when considering the benefits of each mode of transport. **Common Phrases** The phrase "way less" is another way to express "much less," but it's more informal. **Meaning of Idioms** - **Stick to**: It means making the same choice repeatedly. Example: "I usually stick to the same route when I walk home from work." - **Confined**: This means being stuck somewhere with no way out. Example: The person was confined in a small room without any escape. - **Out of the question**: This means something is impossible or unacceptable. Example: Some topics are so sensitive that they're completely out of the question. ### Places to Live There are many places people live in, including apartments and private houses. **Apartment Blocks** These are a common choice for most people because they provide accessible housing for urban citizens. They're conveniently located in cities, allowing shorter commute times to work. This is why apartment blocks are so preferred by those with full-time jobs. ### Private Houses Private houses like the first picture are usually too expensive to afford if they're located in a city, due to high land costs. Therefore, this type of lodging is typically found in rural areas. ### Family Accommodation For big families, cities offer more convenient locations for schools, kindergartens, and hospitals. The second picture shows better accommodation because it's closer to these facilities, even if it may not look like much. ### Types of Houses A detached house is private housing where no walls are shared with other houses. It's contrasted with semi-detached houses. ### Location** Conveniently located places are those that can be accessed easily and practically. ### High Altitudes The pictures show people at high altitudes. The first picture could have made these people go there due to the desire for a serene environment, such as living in a peaceful location on the shore of a foggy lake or river. A man stands triumphantly on a mountain peak, his arms raised in celebration, while a couple gazes lovingly out at a stunning urban skyline. The reasons behind their climbs differ – the couple sought romance and a change of scenery, whereas the lone figure may have aimed to prove their self-worth through solo achievement. I have a cat that's always by my side - she's the most important thing to me. Without her, I don't think my life would be the same. Now, let's look at these two pictures of musicians performing live music. The first one shows a huge concert hall with thousands of people, while the second one features a street performer playing the violin for passersby. It's hard to say which musician is truly passionate about their craft, but I'll take a guess and say that the concert performers are more likely to enjoy themselves. They have a huge audience appreciating their work, which should make it worth pursuing. As for me, I'm not a fan of string instruments like the violin, so I'd prefer listening to music at the big event. It's probably electronic dance music or something similar. I just don't find older instruments like the violin enjoyable. Both pictures show live music performances with differences between them. Part 2 of the B2 First Certificate exam is nicknamed the "long turn" due to its short duration of just one minute, yet it can feel interminable for candidates. In this section, test-takers are required to speak about a pair of pictures and answer a question related to them. Their partner will then receive a follow-up query. While the task may seem daunting, with sufficient preparation and practice, confidence levels can be significantly improved. Many candidates experience anxiety during this part of the exam due to unfamiliar pictures, challenging questions, or nerves. However, with targeted training, individuals can better manage their anxiety and develop effective communication skills. To enhance performance, it's essential to acquire a range of useful phrases and structures that facilitate clear expression and discourse management. To prepare for Part 2, one must prioritize practice sessions, both individually and in group settings. This will allow test-takers to become more comfortable with the task and improve their ability to respond within the allotted time frame. Additionally, using authentic materials and practicing vocabulary acquisition can help candidates develop a stronger command of less common words. Regular practice exercises should be employed, including those designed to simulate the actual exam environment. These may include activities such as speaking in front of a partner or examiner, rehearsing with a friend or family member, or even utilizing language learning apps to improve fluency and accuracy. When it comes to the First Certificate in English (FCE) speaking test, preparation is key. Ideally, you should be familiar with a range of phrases that can help you organize your thoughts and speculate about different scenarios. In particular, having a selection of useful expressions for the long turn and speculation tasks will make all the difference. To get started, it's essential to know how to describe the pictures effectively. This involves using vocabulary related to the topic itself, as well as indicating which picture you're referring to. For instance, you can say "in the first picture," "in the second picture," or "in both pictures." When contrasting different images, use phrases such as "on the other hand," "while," and "in contrast." Additionally, speculate about what might be happening by using expressions like "possibly," "probably," "may be," and "could be." In the FCE speaking test, you'll be presented with two photographs. You'll need to describe your own pictures for around a minute, as well as answer a question about your partner's images. Here's an example of how the test might go: one candidate talks about their own photos, while the other describes their partner's. The topics will revolve around shopping, making it perfect for a shopping-themed unit in a coursebook. To make the most of these materials, use them to practice with your students or by yourself. Work through the tasks, record your speaking parts, and then listen back to identify any mistakes. This exercise will help you improve your skills over time. In the classroom, begin by listening to an example and discussing what made it effective. Then, have your students categorize the useful phrases used in the example and provide feedback on pronunciation. Finally, pair them up to practice their speaking skills using the FCE Speaking Part 2 pictures. For the FCE Speaking Part 2 exam, students should come up with potential follow-up questions and practice answering them.